

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL STORY SAMPLER



A Brief History of Controlled Flight

FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-12



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What Is a Story Sampler?

A Story Sampler makes books come alive for children. It is a book-based thematic approach to reading designed to engage children in the book experience. Each Story Sampler includes hands-on, cross-curricular activities for books that are linked by a common theme.

Why Use a Story Sampler?

Motivational activities are an important part of every Reading Is Fundamental program. And these motivational activities are an easy way to excite children's interest in reading and help them associate books and reading with positive experiences and that means fun! The ideas you will find in each Story Sampler show you how to build anticipation and excitement in your RIF programs.

Scores of studies show that students learn more and do better in school when their parents are involved in their education. Different types of hands-on activities enable all children to learn in different ways. Particular questions before, during and after read aloud activities can develop high order thinking skills.

Family members can encourage children to become life-long readers by reading aloud with them everyday. Reading aloud to children is one of the most effective ways to support language and literacy development. Children

who are read to from infancy associate reading with pleasant, warm feelings. When you invite children to participate in reading, ask open-ended questions that promote creative thinking and learning, and plan activities and experiences that allow children to expand their understanding of the story, you help them develop a love of reading.

What Are the Standard Elements of a Story Sampler?

Each section of the Story Sampler includes a featured book plus additional titles and resources.* The activities that accompany each section will help you develop a literacy-rich environment that contributes significantly to a child's enjoyment of reading. The standard elements in the Story Sampler include:

- Questions to ask
- Family involvement
- Things to do
- Community connections

**The ISBN listed indicates a specific edition of the book. However, other editions may also be available through the public library or other publishers.*

Who Should Use a Story Sampler and Where?

Some Story Samplers are age-specific, but most can be adapted to a broad range of ages. Teachers, families, and child-care providers can use them in classrooms, community centers, homes, and in Head Start sites. And most importantly, parents can extend the story beyond the classroom with home-based projects and field trips.

Story Samplers can forge relationships and shared experiences within the family and the community. Through the family, children can be introduced to many kinds of books. Books can explain and reinforce concepts; allow children to build positive self-images; stimulate discussions and thinking; increase children's understanding of various concepts; and expand their imagination.

The age range for a Story Sampler is indicated at the beginning of each set of activities.

When and How Should I Use a Story Sampler?

Story Samplers can be used within or as a supplement to a curriculum or an after-school program. They can be part of reading challenges, reading weeks, and family involvement events. Your imagination and the interests of the children who participate in the RIF program will help determine the best way to use the Story Sampler. Enjoy and have fun!

Tips for Reading Aloud

Before You Read a Story...

- Make sure everyone is comfortable
- Show the cover and read the title and author of the book
- Ask the children about the cover
- Suggest things the children can look or listen for during the story

During a Story...

- Change your voice to fit the mood or action
- Move your finger under the words as you read them
- Show the pictures and talk about the book as you read
- Add information or change words to help kids understand more words and explain the meaning of a new word
- Ask children to make predications about the plot, the characters, and the setting
- Share your own thoughts about the story
- Follow the cues of the children

After You Read a Story...

- Ask questions about what happened in the story
- Encourage the group to relate the story to their own experiences
- Ask children how they might feel or act if they were one of the characters
- Encourage children to share their thoughts about the story and pictures
- Extend the story with an activity or another book

The Brief History of Controlled Flight

A STORY SAMPLER FOR
CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 12

▶ THE PRINCIPLES OF FLIGHT

The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane

by **Russell Freedman**, Holiday House, 1994
ISBN: 082341082X

▶ THE GROUNDBREAKERS

The Glorious Flight: Across the Channel with Louis Blériot, July 25, 1909

by **Alice and Martin Provensen**, Puffin, 1987
ISBN: 0140507299

▶ THE AIRCRAFT

Big Silver Space Shuttle

by **Ken Wilson-Max**, Scholastic/Cartwheel, 2000
ISBN: 0439136563

▶ BEGINNING FLYERS – FLIGHT FOR VERY YOUNG READERS

First Flight

by **David McPhail**,
Little Brown & Co (Juv Pap), 1991
ISBN: 0316563323

▶ IMAGINARY FLIGHT

The Adventures of Sparrowboy

by **Brian J. Pinkney**, Aladdin Paperbacks, 2000
ISBN: 0689835345

The Principles of Flight

The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane

by **Russell Freedman**

Holiday House, 1994

ISBN: 082341082X

This very special Newberry Honor Book reveals history through extraordinary photographs and a fascinating true story. Freedman tells how bachelor brothers with no special training in engineering or science became intrigued by the problem of human flight and actually discovered how to control an airplane. Though the reading level may be for fifth graders and older students, even the youngest children will find much to learn from the fabulous photographs. The books listed in this section are appropriate for ages 7-12. "About the Photographs," "Places to Visit," and "Further Reading" end the volume. Note that the original 1903 Wright Flyer hangs in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

Preparing for Takeoff

What To Do Before Reading the Story

- Ask children if they can imagine the world without airplanes and airports, or war without fighter jets and aircraft carriers.
- Ask children to try to imagine wanting to fly like the birds and not being able to do that.
- Find out who has flown in a plane before, and ask them to describe what it felt like and what the world looked like from above.
- Find out if the children know what the Wright brothers discovered. (They were not the first to fly, but the first to control the movement of a plane powered by a motor.)
- Talk about how many of the photographs in this book were taken by the Wright brothers, who were amateur photographers and experimented with photography just as they did with everything that interested them. Also, talk about the fact that Wilbur and Orville Wright photographed all stages of their experiments in flight, not only to help them learn, but because they knew it would be important to document any discovery they made.

Getting There

Things To Talk About During the Story

- Point out in an atlas the significant locations in this book: Dayton, Ohio; Kitty Hawk and Elizabeth City, North Carolina; France, New York City, etc.
- Notice how Wilbur and Orville are dressed in the photographs. One hundred years ago, gentlemen always looked like gentlemen, even when they were gliding over sandy beaches or fixing their machines in a workshop. Talk about what life was like at the turn of the century.

Destination: History

What You Can Do When You Finish Reading the Story

- Talk about the scientific method, and how the Wright brothers followed this methodology to achieve so much in such a short time.
- Point out that they researched what was known at the time, kept notebooks and photographs, and repeated their experiments.
- Discuss how they would think about a problem, and then invent the solution.

What Do You Need To Succeed!

- What other qualities did these two men possess that made them successful? (teamwork, confidence in their work, etc.)
- Talk about the state of aeronautics today. The Wright brothers had no college education, yet today people earn doctorate degrees in aerospace engineering and study for years to design new planes.

- Point out that all of these designs are based on the work of the Wright brothers.
- Talk about how determination, studying and earning an education can help you achieve great things.

Paper Airplanes

- Make some paper airplanes. Test which ones fly best, and experiment with the design and folding to help them fly faster and farther.

Family Involvement

- The Wright brothers made demonstration flights for audiences in the U.S. and abroad, and other early aviators started their careers as barnstormers, performing wherever they could. Visit an air show (or a model rocket or model airplane show) to see aerobatics, parachute stunts, and exhibitions of military planes. Experience, as a family, the thrill that flight still holds over humans.

Community Connection

- The Wright brothers built the first military plane in 1909. Discuss how the military improved flight technology, beginning during The Great War in the Air (WWI) and continuing to this day. The National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC is a wonderful museum to visit and learn all sorts of information about the history of flight. If you cannot get to Washington, DC, try a virtual visit by going to their web site at <http://www.nasm.edu/>.
- Talk about how flight has changed our world in so many ways: the way we wage war, how we view the planet Earth, how we protect our agriculture (crop dusting), how we forecast the weather, and how we learn about the farthest reaches of our solar system and outer space. Take a walk around town and ask the people in the community how the discovery of flight changed their lives.

Additional Titles

Use the following books to reexamine how humans discovered the mysteries of flight, and study some of the earliest attempts at flying, from the first gliders to models and kites to jet planes and rockets.

Flight, Fliers, and Flying Machines by David Jefferis, Watts, 1994
ISBN: 0531157121

Many detailed, full-color illustrations examine the human fascination with flight, from our earliest ideas about how to fly to aircraft designs of the future. This information-packed book explains such things as why humans can't mimic bird flight and how advancements in explosive power (bombs) necessitated larger military planes, emphasizing how technology changes over time. With a timeline of major events and a glossary, this book offers a complete and solid presentation of the subject.

The History of Rockets by Ron Miller, Watts, 1990
ISBN: 0531159620

Everything you ever wanted to know about rockets is revealed in fascinating chapters that discuss in great detail what a rocket is, how it works, and how it developed over time from delivering weapons to launching humans into space. Black-and-white photographs and detailed diagrams supplement the text, which also includes experiments, a glossary, bibliography, and a list of websites. Ideas about building the rockets of the future and a graph of significant rockets and launch dates fill the book.

The Magic School Bus Taking Flight: A Book about Flight by Joanna Cole, Scholastic Trade, 1990
ISBN: 0590738712

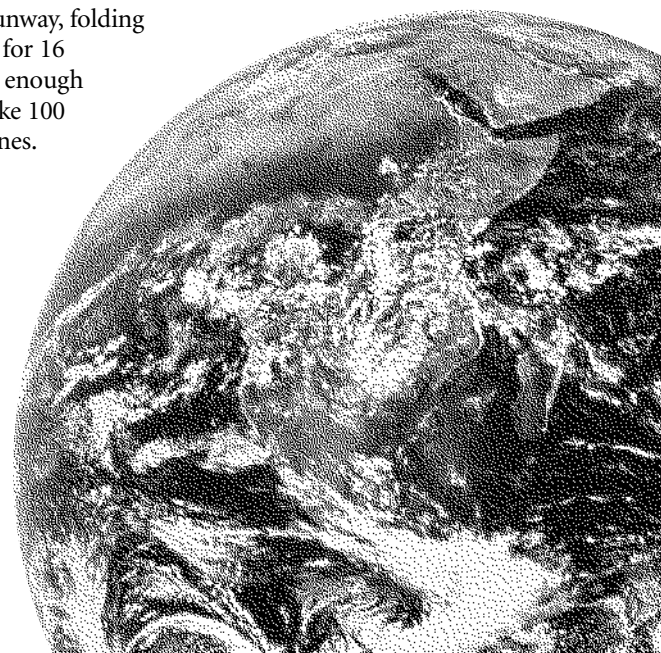
Adapted from the Magic School Bus television series, this fun book finds Ms. Frizzle and her students at a model airplane show. Two of the students, Tim and Wanda, have built a model airplane to enter, and the Frizz and the others shrink small enough to fit into the model airplane. When its motor dies, the class has to figure out how to propel the plane and control its movements before they can safely land.

The New Way Things Work by David Macaulay, Houghton, 1998
ISBN: 0395938473

Originally published as *The Way Things Work*, this updated and revised book is a great reference to have around, not only to explore in more detail how a plane's wings, propellers and other parts work (and the science they employ) but how everything works, including rockets and the jet engines that power passenger jets. Macaulay's drawings are technical and whimsical at the same time, as evidenced by his faithful helper the Mammoth. The pages on how boats navigate through water illustrates the principles which helped the Wright brothers figure out how to navigate a ship through air.

The World Record Paper Airplane Book by Ken Blackburn, and Jeff Lammers, Workman, 1994
ISBN: 1563056313

Ken Blackburn is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest paper airplane flight. An aerospace engineer, Blackburn discusses the principles of flight and how they apply to flying paper airplanes. He also explains how a paper airplane design must be modified to get it flying as best as it can. This book includes a runway, folding instructions for 16 models, and enough paper to make 100 paper airplanes.



The Groundbreakers

The Glorious Flight: Across the Channel with Louis Blériot, July 25, 1909

by Alice and Martin Provensen

Puffin, 1987

ISBN: 0140507299

The Provensens' Caldecott Medal-winning picture book puts the reader in France in the early part of the 20th century, when an automobile is still a luxury and a flying machine is a miracle! The story culminates with Blériot's flight from France to England over the English Channel in 37 minutes. He made many attempts, flew many airplanes, but through trial and error and dedication faced an enormous challenge. The books in this section are appropriate for children ages 7-12.

I Wish I Could Do That

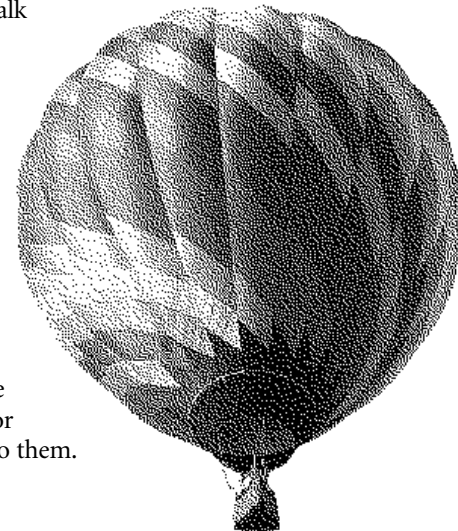
What To Do Before Reading the Story

- Ask children if they know who Louis Blériot was, and if they know what or where the English Channel is. Point it out on a map or globe.
- By looking at the cover of this book, can the children guess when this "glorious flight" took place (after the Wright brothers' historic flights).

Try, Try Again

Things To Talk About During the Story

- How did he finally get it right? (Blériot observed Wilbur Wright's demonstration flights in France in August of 1908. The wing warping on Blériot's plane was modeled after the Wright brothers' Flyer.)
- Stop to discuss the prize that Blériot decides to pursue. How much was offered? Who offered it? Talk about how competitions and contests have spurred many advancements in flight technology.
- Read this passage slowly: "Twenty miles wide. / Black tossing waves. / Fog and rain. / A very cold bath. / A long swim. / It is a dangerous prospect. / Just what Papa likes." Have children discuss whether or not this seems appealing to them.



And What Next?

What You Can Do When You Finish Reading the Story

- Louis Blériot, like many early aviators, had many accidents. Otto Lilienthal, Amelia Earhart (as far as we know), and Bessie Coleman were all killed while flying their machines. Discuss some of these disasters and the inherent dangers of flying. Discuss why things go wrong sometimes. (*Apollo 13* and *The Challenger* are other disasters that children may be familiar with.)

Dare To Dream...

- Think about the drawings of aircraft from the past and also the actual planes you may have seen in museums. Imagine and sketch an aircraft of the future. What would be its purpose? How would its design reflect that purpose?

Family Involvement & Community Connection

- People are still trying to break records. In 1996 the *Voyager* made the first nonstop, non-refueled flight around the world. In 1999, the U.S. landed a craft on Mars. What other barriers are people trying to break? Talk to an older relative or friend and ask them to tell you what, if anything, they remember about some of these events. Someone who is 73 years old today was 10 when Amelia Earhart disappeared, 44 when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, and 56 when Sally Ride was the first American woman to fly into space.

Additional Titles

Use the following books to discover other famous aviators and astronauts, people who devoted their personal funds, time, and lives to making flight part of everyday life and conquering the frontier of space. Also, discuss U.S. history and culture during the times these people lived.

Amelia Earhart by Nancy Shore, Chelsea House, 1989
ISBN: 0791004155

The reading level of this biography of Amelia Earhart is for older readers, but the photographs are excellent for children much younger to look at.

There are pictures in this book that are not in other biographies, including Earhart as a young woman with long hair, and a photograph of Earhart and 65-year-old Orville Wright when they met at an aeronautical exhibit in 1936. Wilbur Wright passed away in 1912.

An American Hero: The True Story of Charles A. Lindbergh
by Barry Denenberg, Scholastic, 1998
ISBN: 059046955X

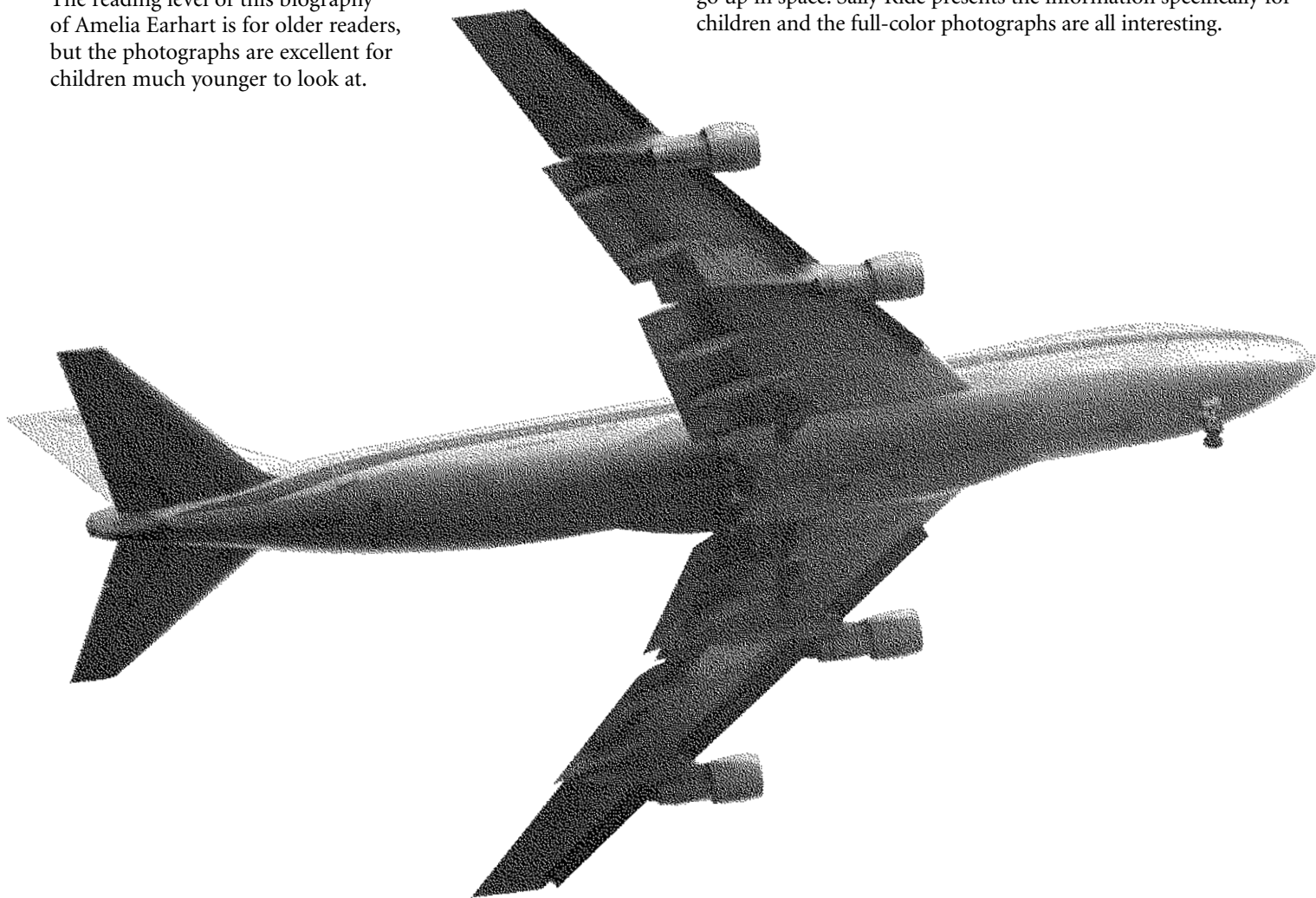
This biography reveals Lindbergh's obsession with flying and his dedication to the field. Lengthy chapters detail such things as how he had *The Spirit of St. Louis* built to his own specifications (and why he made those design decisions). Black-and-white photographs and fine writing present Lindbergh's career from barnstorming, delivering mail, and researching flight paths for the first passenger airlines.

Nobody Owns the Sky: The Story of "Brave Bessie" Coleman
by Reeve Lindbergh, Candlewick, 1998
ISBN: 0763603619

Reeve Lindbergh is the daughter of Charles Lindbergh.

To Space & Back by Sally Ride, and Susan Okie, Lothrop, 1989
ISBN: 0688091121

Dedicated to Sally Ride's high school science teacher and the crew of *The Challenger*, this book talks about what it was like to go up in space. Sally Ride presents the information specifically for children and the full-color photographs are all interesting.



The Aircraft

Big Silver Space Shuttle

by **Ken Wilson-Max**
Scholastic/Cartwheel, 2000
ISBN: 0439136563

This pull-tab book makes space shuttle technology available to the youngest readers. The brightly colored illustrations with heavy black outlining are perfect for the youngest readers. Though some of the content is for a much older audience (such as the orbital maneuvering system), very young children will come away with the basic understanding of how the space shuttle works: blast off, external fuel tanks fall away, the space shuttle navigates through space, launches a satellite, and returns to Earth, landing on a runway like an ordinary airplane. The books in this section are appropriate for children ages 6-12.

Out of This World

What To Do Before Reading the Story

- Ask children if they have ever heard of a “space plane”.
- Ask them if they know what the difference is between the spaceship that went to the moon and the space shuttle. (The latter has been reused many, many times.)

Science Fiction As Fact

Things To Talk About During the Story

- Explain some of the more sophisticated vocabulary that appears in this book — external fuel tank, solid rocket boosters, orbital maneuvering system, satellite, cargo bay, robotic arm.
- Talk about what satellites do for us down here on Earth. For example, from space we can observe weather patterns and view outer space (and other solar systems) better.

Off We Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder...

What You Can Do After You Finish Reading the Story

- Why is this called a space shuttle? (It shuttles people back and forth.)
- The theme song of the Air Force goes “Off we go into the wild blue yonder...” What new meaning does “wild blue yonder” take on with the advent of the space shuttle?
- Discuss the significance of naming aircraft (such as Lindbergh’s *Spirit of St. Louis*? Yeager’s *Glamour Glennis*, and the Concorde).

Future Flying

- Next time you fly in an airplane, learn something about it. What company built it? When? How many miles has it flown? When you get back home, learn about the company that made your airplane. Where is it located? Can you visit the plant?

Family Involvement & Community Connection

- Plan a family trip to Cape Canaveral to watch the launching of the Space Shuttle. If you cannot get there by car, train or plane, try the internet. Take a virtual tour of Cape Canaveral by visiting the web site: <http://www.inficad.com/~robsv/CCASVT/ccasvt.html>
- Go up in a small airplane. Many places have instructors who will take interested parties up for a minimal fee. Get other members of your family to go, too.
- Compare photographs (or personal memories) of the Grand Canyon with a satellite view of the Grand Canyon. Watch the weather report on television with your parents to see satellite imagery.

Additional Titles

Use the following books to study in detail some famous airplanes, such as *The Spirit of St. Louis* and the Red Baron's fighter plane. Look at the comparative sizes of planes throughout history and how they have changed over the last one hundred years.

Fantastic Cutaway Book of Flight by Jon Richards,
Copper Beech Books, 1998
ISBN: 0761307265

From early aircraft, dirigibles, and balloons to WWI and WWII aircraft, these carefully executed illustrations detail both the outsides and insides of different planes, including famous planes, jets and airliners. The book ends with a chapter on planes of the future, and also includes sidebar information and photographs about famous aviators and certain periods in the history of flight. Includes wallchart.

Flight: The Journey of Charles Lindbergh by Robert Burleigh,
Putnam/PaperStar, 1997
ISBN: 0698114256

The beautiful paintings in this picture book about Charles Lindbergh's 33 1/2 hour flight from New York to Paris in 1927 show *The Spirit of St. Louis* in good detail from the outside as well as from inside the cockpit. The artist constructed a number of models of the plane to assist in his illustrations.

Planes by Angela Royston, DK/Funfax sticker book, 1999
ISBN: 0789443198

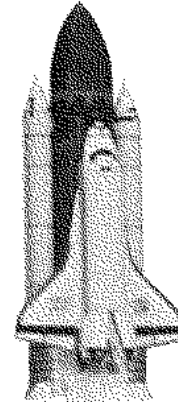
Place each of 28 stickers onto the outline of the correct plane, and learn about all the different kinds of aircraft. This book will help young children practice fine motor skills and matching skills, as well as improve their vocabulary. The stickers are photographs of actual airplanes, such as the Concorde, the Space Shuttle, the Harrier jump jet, Otto Lilienthal's glider, Louis Bleriot's famous plane, and examples of a biplane and a triplane.

Rockets and Other Spacecraft by John Fardon,
Millbrook Pr. Trade
ISBN: 0761308407

A terrific book from the "How Science Works" series.

Spacebusters: The Race to the Moon by Philip Wilkinson,
Dk Pub Merchandise, 1998
ISBN: 0789429616

A "level 3" book from the Eyewitness Readers series (marked as appropriate for grades 2 - 3), this title offers information boxes and a pronunciation guide, in addition to the high-quality photographs and design of the Eyewitness book format. Content talks generally about the U.S. - Soviet space race, but provides very good detail on how the astronauts were launched into space, a look inside the command module, a nice photograph of the lunar landing craft, and an explanation of how the famous crew (Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin, and Michael Collins) got back to Earth.



Beginning Flyers

FLIGHT FOR VERY YOUNG READERS
APPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-6

First Flight

by **David McPhail**

Little Brown & Co (Juv Pap), 1991
ISBN : 0316563323

The little boy in this story is going to visit his grandmother. He is taking an airplane for the first time to get to his grandmother's home and he is going by himself.... well almost by himself.

Preparing for Take Off What To Do Before Reading the Story

- Show the children the cover and read the title of the story.
- Ask the children what they find silly or humorous about the cover of the book. They will most likely talk about the bear and the fearful look on his face, while the little boy, on the other hand, looks very calm.
- Ask the children by show of hands who has been on an airplane. Call on a few children to describe what it was like to ride on an airplane.
- Ask the children if any of them have ever traveled alone before, either by plane or some other mode of transportation and how it felt to travel by themselves.
- Explain that the story is about a little boy's first flight.

In Flight Things To Talk About During the Story

- Ask the children if they have ever been to an airport to drop off or pick someone up. If so, what they have seen there.
- Have the children point out what the little boy is bringing with him on the airplane.

- Something funny happens when the boy goes through security, see if any of the children notice and talk about the issue of security at airports and why it is necessary.
- Talk about some of the things that the little boy does during his flight and compare it to the children's plane ride experiences or your own.

Prepare for Landing What You Can Do When You Finish Reading the Story

- Continue the discussion about flying. What can be exciting and frightening at the same time?
- Read *Fly Away* by Helen and Kelly Oechsli, another cute story about a little girl going on an airplane to visit her grandparents.
- Try one of the following activities:



All About Airplanes

Read any of the books from the *Additional Titles* list below and begin a discussion of all the cool parts of an airplane or about the many different types of flying machines that there are in the world today. Ask the children:

- What they think it might have been like before there were ever any flying machines?
- What has flying enabled us to do? How has it made our lives easier or better?
- Where do you think the idea for flight came from? Why would human beings want to learn how to fly?
- What kinds of flying machines are there today?

Sketch a giant mural with the different types of flying machines that you and the children discover. Have the children color in the mural and either draw themselves into the picture or cut out and glue photographs of them inside the planes.

Up, Up, Up in the Air, It's a Bird, It's a Plane

Talk about why objects that are far away or higher up seem smaller, especially as you take off in an airplane. Start by putting a coin or a small toy on the bottom of a staircase. Then ask the children to walk up a few stairs and look at the object, then have them climb a few more stairs and look again at the same object. Point out that the object appears smaller as they get further away and higher up. If you are able to find two pictures of the same scene, one taken close up and one taken from further away, this might also help as a tool to illustrate the point of perspective.

- If you have the time, gather some paper, markers, crayons or water colors and have the children illustrate two different scenes, one that is near and one that is far and compare them.

Additional Titles

The Berenstain Bears Fly-It!: Up, Up, and Away

by Stan Berenstain, Random House, 1996
ISBN: 0679873171

Leave it to the papa bear to show his children and their friends all about flying. The cubs become so excited by his demonstration with a balloon that soon all the cubs are designing their own models.

Flying by Donald Crews, Mulberry Books, 1987

ISBN: 0688092357

Simple, easy to read, and great illustrations on the topic of flying.

Flying by Gail Gibbons, Holiday House, 1992

ISBN: 0823409775

A great beginner's guide to the history of flying. Colorful, simple illustrations with easily comprehensible text.

Airplanes and Flying Machines by Gallimard Jeunesse,

Scholastic Trade, 1992
ISBN: 0590452673

Cool transparent overlays make this book neat to look at and give the reader a view inside and outside the airplane at the same time.

Let's Fly from A to Z by Doug Magee, and Robert Newman,

Cobblehill Books, 1992
ISBN: 0525651055

A great book for children learning their ABC's and who are interested in airplanes. The author has found a way to provide a learning activity in a fun and informative way.

Angela's Airplane (Munsch for Kids Series)

by Robert N. Munsch, Firefly Books, 1988
ISBN: 155037026X

A funny tale involving young children and airplanes. What could be better suited for the topic.

The Airplane Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta,

Charlesbridge Publishing Inc, 1997
ISBN: 088106906X

Another great ABC book using the theme of airplanes.

Jetliners (Cutaway) by Jon Richards, Copper Beech Books, 1998

ISBN: 0761307443

A Boeing 707, a jumbo jet, or the Concorde, this book shows kids the ins and outs of all different flying machines and explains in clear, simple language how things work.

Planes by Anne Rockwell, Puffin Books, 1993

ISBN: 0140547827

Anne Rockwell is famous for her bunny characters and this time they are busy flying planes, making paper airplanes, and going hang gliding!

- Another fun art project is to make cloud pictures! Grab some cotton balls, glue and construction paper. Take a walk outside and look up at the clouds, point out the different shapes, sizes and shades of white and gray, perhaps even talk about what some of the clouds may resemble. Once the children have a good picture in their mind, bring them back inside and show them how to cut or stretch the cotton and glue it down. When everybody is finished, display the wonderful cloud creations and/or discuss what it might be like to see the clouds from the window of an airplane.

Plan a Trip!

The little boy in the story brought a suitcase and his bear. Ask the children what they might bring if they were going to go on an airplane. Talk about destination and travel time and how it might affect what they choose to bring with them. Young children love to pack a bag; have them write down what they want to bring or have them bring in an actual bag to share a few items.

- The good old "I am going to Grandma's house and I am bringing with me..." may be a fun game to play, especially if the children know or are learning their ABC's.

Peanuts or Pretzels?

Enjoy an airplane snack with the children. Explain that flights vary in length depending on how far you are traveling. Some flights include a meal, but almost all serve a beverage and some sort of snack such as peanuts or pretzels. If you really want to imagine being on an airplane, line the seats in the room up in several rows like the seating on an airplane. Select two volunteers to act as the flight attendants and have them pass out the snacks.

Family Involvement

- Go on a family outing to the nearest airport. Explore what kinds of things they have there and check out all the different airplanes and machines that they use to operate the airport. If it's not too busy, try talking to some of the airport employees to find out more about traveling and the planes that arrive and depart from the airport each day.
- Airport Construction! Gather some large hollow building blocks, toy airplanes, cars and trucks. Ask the children to try to remember what they saw on their visit to the airport or have them look at some of the *Flight* books from the additional titles list. Remind them or point out the various aspects of an airport such as the flight tower, the long runways and the surrounding land. Let imaginations wander and begin building, remember, have fun!

Community Connection

- Invite a local pilot or flight attendant to talk to your group of children about their job and what it's like to fly in the sky all day. If they are able to bring some of their equipment to show the children or if it can be arranged for an outing to the airport, even better!

Imaginary Flight

The Adventures of Sparrowboy

by **Brian J. Pinkney**

Aladdin Paperbacks, 2000

ISBN: 0689835345

Before delivering the newspapers on his daily route, Henry reads the cover page that often carries sad news of tragedies. But Henry is confident that if his favorite comic book hero, Falconman, were around he could solve all kinds of problems. A collision with a small bird may make Henry the hero of the day instead! These books are appropriate for children ages 5-8.

All Systems Go!

What To Do Before Reading the Story

- Children love drama! Introduce the story by reading the title in a “radio theater” voice and grab their attention right from the beginning!
- Start off reading right from there or ask the children to make some predictions about the story based on the cover and the title.
- Ask the children if they know what a sparrow is and where they might find one.
- Some of the book is in comic strip format, ask the kids if they have read comic strips before, and if so, what do they think of them. Do they like them? Do they have any favorites? If they are not familiar with comic strips, then try to explain how comic strips are read and that they are often continuous stories.

Zap! Crash! Grrrrr! Whoosh!

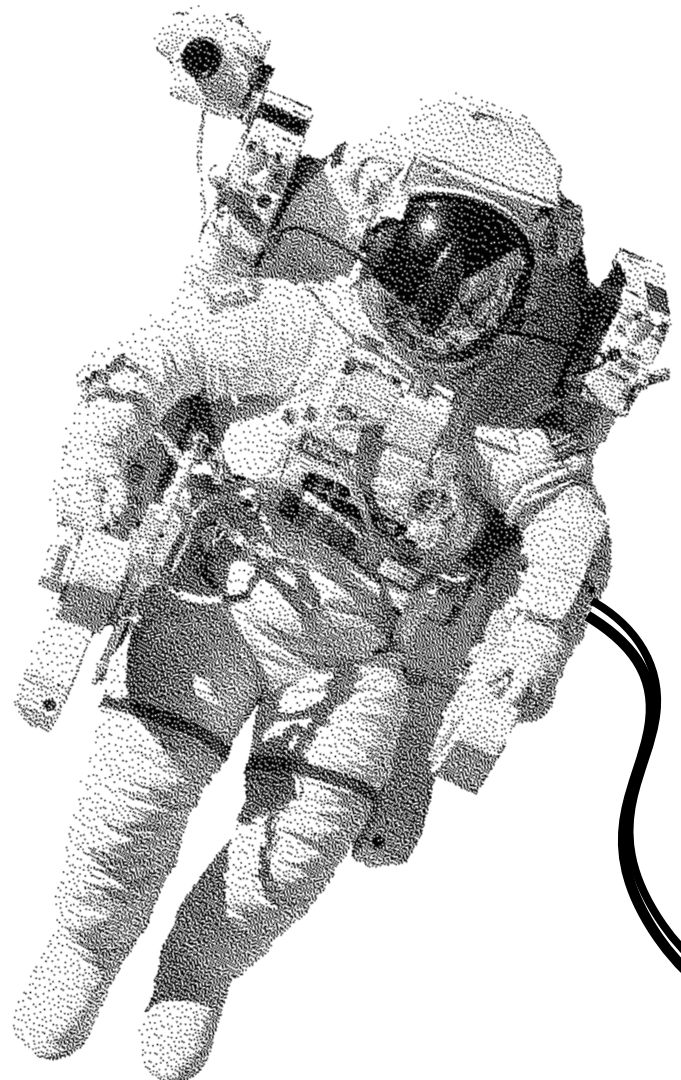
Things To Talk About During the Story

- As you read the story, point out how the text changes from a traditional format to that of a comic strip.
- Read the story with extra enthusiasm and zest!

Until Next Time

What You Can Do When You Finish Reading the Story

- After you have finished reading, ask the children what they thought of Sparrowboy.
- Did they think the story was silly or suspenseful?
- Comic strip characters can be good, evil and/or funny; ask the kids what kind of character Sparrowboy appeared to be. Is he a do-gooder or someone that is up to no-good?
- If children are familiar with other comic strip heroes, ask them about their favorites. What is it about the characters they like that makes them so fascinating?



When We Last Left Off, Our Hero Was...

- Create a sequel to *The Adventures of Sparrowboy*. Perhaps Henry collides with the sparrow once again or some other flying creature and encounters new and exciting problems to solve in his neighborhood! Write down the children's ideas for a sequel in the format of a comic strip and ask them to help the adventure come alive by illustrating the text.

Wings of Imagination

Read one of the stories from the *Additional Titles* list and continue the fantasy of flight. Ask the children to imagine what it would be like if they could fly. Ask some of the following questions when you share the wonderful imaginative stories with the children:

- Would they be themselves or one of their favorite comic strip heroes?
- Would they become a flying machine or a bird?
- Where would they fly to on their journey? What kinds of things would they see along the way?
- How would things look from way up in the sky?
- Would they take anyone along?
- What would be the benefits of flying instead of riding in a car or walking?
- Why do the characters in the story feel the need to fly away? Are they pretending for fun or are they trying to escape from something?
- Would their flight be for pleasure or would their be an adventure involved?

Family Involvement

- Children often love comic books. Try to gather a bunch to take a look at together or go to the internet and check out some of the web sites that feature old and new comic book heroes and heroines. Comics are often a great way to hook in reluctant readers, not only because comics usually have action-packed illustrations, but they also allow the reader to figure out the text fairly easily without actually reading the words.
- Grab a book on birds from your local library and a pair of binoculars and go bird watching! Talk about what you see with the children and try to sketch some of the different birds you find on your walk.

Community Connection

- Invite a local ornithologist to talk to the children about sparrows, falcons and many other types of birds. Ask him/her to speak about the various species of birds and the topic of flight in particular.

- In *Sparrowboy* and the additional stories by Arthur Dorros and Faith Ringgold, the main characters go flying through their neighborhood and get to see or imagine things from a higher perspective, take a trip to the roof of a tall building or visit a local skyscraper and check out the view! Talk about what you would fly over in your neighborhood if you could and how that might affect your neighbors.

Additional Titles

Abuela by Arthur Dorros, Puffin, 1997

ISBN: 0140562257

In English or in Spanish, come join a little girl and her grandmother as they soar through the skies of Manhattan.

Isla by Arthur Dorros, Puffin, 1999

ISBN: 0140565051

A sequel to *Abuela*, this time Rosalba and her grandmother fly on an imaginary journey to the Caribbean where her grandmother grew up.

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold, Dragonfly, 1996

ISBN: 0517885441

Like the stories of *Abuela* and *Isla*, Cassie Louise Lightfoot uses her imagination to fly above the rooftop and reach for her dreams.

RIF'S MISSION

Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF) develops and delivers children's and family literacy programs that help prepare young children for reading and motivate older children to read. Through a national network of teachers, parents, and community volunteers, RIF programs provide books and other essential literacy resources to children at no cost to them or their families. RIF's highest priority is the nation's neediest children, from infancy to age 11.

ABOUT RIF

Founded in 1966 in Washington, D.C., RIF is the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit children's literacy organization, with programs operating nationwide in 16,500 schools, child-care centers, libraries, hospitals, clinics, migrant worker camps, Head Start and Even Start programs, homeless shelters, and detention centers.

RIF serves more than 3.5 million children through a network of more than 240,000 volunteers. Two-thirds of the children served by RIF have economic or learning needs that put them at risk of failing to achieve basic educational goals.

Through a contract with the U.S. Department of Education, RIF provides federal matching funds to thousands of school and community-based organizations that sponsor RIF programs. RIF also receives private support from hundreds of corporations and foundations, thousands of local organizations and businesses, and countless individuals.

RIF distributes about 13 million books a year. By the end of 2000, RIF will have placed more than 200 million books in the hands and homes of America's children.

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